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hour reading, and on the following morning, for a twenty-four hour reading. At this time, the patient is given a barium and buttermilk enema, of one quart, and is placed in the dorsal position, so one can follow the shadow of the solution through the rectum, sigmoid, descending colon, transverse colon ascending colon, and filling the caecum, in this way detecting any filling defect that may exist. Since my observation of the Roentgen rays, I have failed to see the distinction between a high and low colonic irrigation, which the former student nurses were required to learn. The study of the Roentgen ray, its mechanism, and value in Roentgen diagnosis and Roentgenotherapy certainly prove it to be one of the most interesting scientific fields, open to the nursing profession at present.

THE VACUUM BOTTLE AS SICKROOM EQUIPMENT

By Hilde Brand

Quite frequently nurses are called upon to work in homes lacking at least some of the modern conveniences, or else the sickroom may be located in a distant part of the house. It is then that the vacuum bottle becomes a necessary and altogether helpful part of the sickroom equipment, an article that can be made to save the nurse many steps and much time and trouble. It frequently enables the convalescent patient to do for himself or herself what it would otherwise be necessary to ask the nurse to perform. An instance of the latter is the patient who requires a fresh drink during the night. He dare not get out of bed to get it, but if he has a vacuum bottle placed handy, filled with fresh cold water, it is usually an easy matter for the convalescent to pour himself a drink. The weary though faithful nurse need not be disturbed, something both nurse and any considerate invalid will appreciate. Even though the patient be unable to wait on himself, if a vacuum bottle is used to provide fresh water, it will save the nurse frequent trips to the source of supply, especially in the case of fever patients. At the same time it will make it unnecessary to leave the patient alone, which in some cases is dangerous.

Or the vacuum bottle may be filled with any hot liquid often so necessary in the sickroom, keeping it hot for hours, or until a fresh supply is conveniently attainable. For instance, a vacuum bottle can be filled with hot water early in the evening, and then used during the night to refill a hot water bottle that has become cold. Nurses will appreciate what this means in homes that do not have all the modern conveniences.

Note.—Nurses should be warned against keeping the food supply for a baby in a vacuum bottle. All milk contains bacteria, and to raise its temperature much above fifty degrees makes it an ideal culture medium for their growth.—Ed.